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REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is further responsive to the Office Action identified above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS/CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9-23 were pending, under consideration and subject to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended in order to correct minor informalities so as to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention.

That is, the present claim amendments are wholly unrelated to any objections/rejections or any prior art, and instead, are simply for the purpose of correcting the erroneous preambles of Claims 15-23 to the proper "system" preamble, given that such claims depend from independent "system" Claim 14.

At entry of this paper, Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9-23 remain pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

EXAMINER INTERVIEWS ACKNOWLEDGED/STATEMENTS OF SUBSTANCE

An Examiner Interview was conducted in the present application on 21 April 2004 by telephone, by and between Primary Examiner Leon Scott, Jr. and Attorney Paul J. Skwierawski. During the aforementioned Examiner Interview, Claims 1-23 were discussed, and it was agreed upon by the Examiner and the undersigned that all prior 35 USC §112, 2ND Paragraph, issues had been resolved by Applicant's 14 November 2003 Amendment. Further, in view of the fact that there were no other outstanding objections/rejections (beyond the original §112, 2ND paragraph,

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rejections), the Examiner and the undersigned agreed that the application appeared to be in condition for allowance. As an aside, the Examiner indicated that he felt that the reference to Watterson *et al.* (US 6,526,079 B1) was somewhat relevant to Applicant's invention, and that perhaps Applicant would like to have the chance to review such reference and make amendments (if any) on a voluntary basis. It was agreed that Applicant would provide a review and claim amendments (if any) by Monday, 26 April 2004.

Applicant's foreign representative has now provided return comments/instructions regarding the reference, and both Applicant's foreign representative and the undersigned concur that Applicant's Claims 1-23 sufficiently distinguish over Watterson *et al.* Accordingly, no further substantive amendments are desired by Applicant at this time.

As agreed, the Examiner was courteously informed of the Applicant's above decision in a follow-up telephone conference on 26 April 2004, by and between Primary Examiner Scott and Attorney Skwierawski.

These Statements of Substance are being submitted in lieu of Form(s) PTO/SB/413A, and prior to Applicant's receipt of any Interview Summary.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rjection was

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valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number of 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

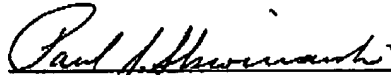
This paper is being submitted merely to supplement the *bona fide* and complete Amendment timely filed within the shortened statutory period for response to the Office Action dated 14 August 2003, and substantially merely to correct minor informalities in the claim language and to submit Statements of Substance for teleconferences with the Examiner. Therefore, no Petition or fees are necessary for entry of this paper. To whatever other extent is actually appropriate and required,

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please charge any proper deficiency in fees to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135
(referencing Case No. 520.41386X00).

Respectfully submitted,



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